

Amendments to the Specification

Please amend paragraph [0036] as follows:

[0036] Figure 2 is a cross-sectional view of the case taken generally along line 2-2 of Figure 1. This view illustrates how elastic cord 18 circumscribes the perimeter of the case. Cord 18 lies in a channel 26, which channel exists in second end cap as channel 26', first end cap 26'' and in alignment ~~studs/fingers~~ studs 22 as channel 26'', as better shown in Figures 3, 3A and 4. The cord is located proximate the perimeter of the case, so as not to interfere with storage of articles in space 24 within the case.

Please amend paragraph [0037] as follows:

[0037] Case 10 is shown in an open orientation in perspective view in Figure 3. In this view, end cap 14 has been pulled leftwardly, against the bias of elastic cord 18, to expose inner space 24 (shown in Figure 3A) of the case. Articles 20 are shown being held within the case. This view also shows alignment ~~studs/fingers~~ studs 22. The alignment ~~studs/fingers~~ studs function to align and hold end cap 14 in contact with housing 12. In a first embodiment, the two alignment ~~studs/fingers~~ studs are fixedly secured to end cap 16, and also secured within through-bores 23 of housing 12, as shown in Figure 3A. Each alignment stud/finger includes a channel 26'' for elastic cord 18. Thus it is seen that the ~~studs/fingers~~ studs, with their respective channels 26'', function to form channel 26 within the perimeter of housing 12. As seen in Figure 1, channel 26 is positioned both inside and partially outside the respective structural elements. For example, cord 18 is shown partially exposed with respect to end cap 14 in Figure 1, partially inside and partially outside of channel 26'.

Please amend paragraph [0038] as follows:

[0038] Figure 3A is an exploded view of the case shown in Figures 1 and 3. This view shows that, in the first embodiment, cord 18 is formed in a closed loop, preferably formed by

securing two terminal ends of a linear band to one another. This view also shows alignment ~~studs/fingers~~ studs 22 in more detail. The ~~studs/fingers~~ studs are shown to be semi-circular in cross-sectional shape, although this shape is not germane to the invention. The elongated ~~studs/fingers~~ studs are seen to be arranged to matingly engage through-bores 23 of housing 12. End cap 16 is seen to include inner space 24" which forms part of the interior of case 10. It should be appreciated by those having ordinary skill in the art that while a preferred embodiment comprises a pair of alignment ~~studs/fingers~~ studs operatively arranged for traversing the entire length of through-bores 23, four shortened ~~fingers/studs~~ studs, each secured within a terminal end of through-bores 23, could be provided to achieve similar results.

Please amend paragraph [0039] as follows:

[0039] In Figure 4 it is seen that second end cap 14 has been pulled leftwardly against the bias of elastic cord 18 and rotated 90° downwardly to expose inner space 24' and alignment receptacles 32. Alignment receptacles 32 are operatively arranged for accepting ~~studs/fingers~~ studs 22 therein and are disposed on either side of inner space 24'. As can be seen more clearly in Figure 4a, which illustrates elastic cord 18 and second end cap 14 removed from the case and rotated 180°, alignment receptacles 32 and alignment ~~studs/fingers~~ studs 22 are complementary to one another such that second end cap 14 may be aligned and held in biased contact with housing 12 when the case is not in use. Alignment receptacles 32 while serving to align and secure the second end cap 14 to the housing are also provided for passing elastic cord 18 from channels 26'' of the alignment ~~studs/fingers~~ studs 22 to channel 26' of the second end cap. Because articles 20 are held within the inner space of the holder and the first and second end caps, it is seen that damage thereto is avoided.

Please amend paragraph [0040] as follows:

[0040] In Figures 5 and 6, which illustrate a top view of the case and a view of the case taken generally along line 6-6 of Figure 5, it is seen that second end cap 14 comprises channel 26' for passing elastic cord 18 therethrough such that the second end cap may be urged against

the housing. As shown in Figure 7, which is a view of the case taken generally along line 7-7 of Figure 5, it is seen that elastic cord 18 is passed along the sides of the case by means of channels 26'' extending along ~~studs/fingers~~ studs 22. It should be appreciated by those having ordinary skill in the art that while Figures 3A and 7 illustrate ~~studs/fingers~~ studs 22 as extending along the entire length of through-bores 23, ~~fingers~~ studs 22 may be configured to comprise four ~~studs/fingers~~ studs secured at the terminal ends of through-bores 23 such that elastic cord 18 is passed through the ~~studs/fingers~~ studs and then through through-bores 23.

Please amend paragraph [0041] s follows:

[0041] While a preferred embodiment comprises detachable second end cap 14 and fixedly secured end cap 16, Figures 8-8A illustrate second embodiment 40 of the present invention, which embodiment comprises second end cap 44 and first end cap 46, each adapted to be detachably secured to housing 42 such that articles 50 may be held in inner space 45 and accessed from either end of the case. In this embodiment, it is seen that housing 42 comprises through-bores 43 for accepting ~~fingers/studs~~ studs 52 therein. Similar to the preferred embodiment described above, ~~fingers/studs~~ studs 52 each comprise channels 47'' for passing elastic cord 48 therethrough and along the sides of the housing. Second end cap 44 and first end cap 46 are identical to one another and each comprise alignment receptacles 54 disposed on either side of inner space 45'. Alignment receptacles 54 each comprise a size and shape that is complementary to ~~fingers/studs~~ studs 52 such that the end caps 44 and 46 may be aligned and properly secured upon the housing. End caps 44 and 46 also each comprise a channel 47' for passing elastic cord 48 therethrough. Hence, when the elastic cord is arranged with in the channels of the ~~fingers/studs~~ studs and the end caps about the perimeter of the case, the two end caps may be secured to the housing via the bias provided by the elastic cord.

Please amend paragraph [0042] as follows:

[0042] Finally, other embodiments of the case of the present invention are illustrated in Figures 9-11. In Figure 9, which illustrates a cross section of third embodiment 60, it is seen that

the case could be configured to comprise a single linear elastic band arranged within channel 77. In this embodiment channel 77 comprises second end cap channel 77' and housing 72 comprises channels 77''. Since first end cap 66 is adapted to be fixedly secured to housing 72, it may or may not comprise a channel for passing an elastic cord therethrough. Second end cap 74 is adapted to be detachably secured to housing 72. Housing 72 is adapted to comprise a pair of bores disposed on the sides of the housing for accepting alignment ~~studs/fingers~~ studs 70 therein. Alignment ~~studs/fingers~~ studs 70 each comprise a bore for passing and securing terminal ends 76 of the elastic band. The terminal ends of the elastic band may be secured within channel 77'' for within the bore of ~~fingers/studs~~ studs 70 by virtually any appropriate means including, but not limited to: adhesives, staples, knots, etc. In Figure 9 it is also seen that alignment ~~studs/fingers~~ studs 70 are provided for aligning second end cap 74 upon the housing such that elastic band 68 may be passed from the housing to the second end cap. It should be appreciated by those having ordinary skill in the art that alignment ~~studs/fingers~~ studs 70 may extend along the entire length of the bores on the sides of housing 72 or may be configured to extend only along a portion of the length of the bores.

Please amend paragraph [0043] as follows:

[0043] In Figure 10, which is a cross section of fourth embodiment 80, it is seen that the case could be configured to comprise a pair of linear elastic bands 88 and 89 disposed within channel 98. In this embodiment first end cap 86 is fixedly secured to housing 92 and second end cap 94 is adapted to be detachably secured to the housing. More specifically, second end cap 94 is detachably secured to the housing via linear elastic bands 88 and 89. Linear elastic bands 88 and 89 each comprise a pair of terminal ends 95 and 96. Terminal ends 95 are secured within channel 97' of second end cap 94 and terminal ends 96 are secured within channels 97'' of housing 92. The terminal ends of the bands may be secured within channels 97'' or the bores of ~~finger/studs~~ studs 90 by virtually any appropriate means available in the art, e.g., adhesives, staples, knots, etc. In Figure 10 it is also seen that housing 92 is adapted for securing

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~~fingers/studs~~ studs 90, which align and secure second end cap 94 upon the housing such that the elastic bands 88 and 89 are passed from channels 97'' to channels 97'.